

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-15 are amended, and claim 2 is cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 7,265,859) in view of Inaba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,327).

Applicants' claim 1, as currently amended, recites a scanner which includes an operating panel configured to input and display a processing condition. The processing condition includes file format information. The scanner also includes a controller that acquires the processing condition from the operating panel, generates transmission data according to the file format information input from the operation panel, and forwards the transmission data to a designated terminal according to the acquired processing condition.

Sato discloses an image processing apparatus 101 which includes a controller unit 2000. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 9-10 of Sato. An operation unit I/F 2006 of the controller unit 2000 interfaces with an operation unit 2012. See, e.g., Figure 2 and col. 4, lines 47-51 of Sato. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Sato's operation unit 2012 reads on the operating panel recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sato's operation unit 2012 is not configured to input and display a processing condition which includes file format information.

In the Office Action, the Examiner points out that Sato's controller unit 2000 includes an image compression unit 2040. The image compression unit 2040 performs compression and decompression processes of multivalue image data according to a JPEG

format, and performs compression and decompression processes of binary image data according to a JBIG format, an MMR format or an MH format. See col. 5, lines 24-31 of Sato.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Sato fails to disclose that file format information may be inputted or displayed by the operation unit 2012. Accordingly, Applicants also submit that Sato fails to disclose that the controller unit 2000 generates transmission data according to file format information input from the operation unit 2012, and forwards such transmission data to a designated terminal.

Inaba et al. discloses an image forming system which includes a reader unit 1. See, e.g., Figure 1 of Inaba et al. Figure 3 of Inaba et al. illustrates an operation panel which is provided on the reader unit 1.

Applicants submit that Inaba et al. does not disclose that file format information may be inputted or displayed on the operation panel of the reader unit 1. Thus, Applicants submit that Inaba et al. also fails to disclose a controller that generates transmission data according to file format information input from the operation panel, and forwards such transmission data to a designated terminal.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submit that the combined teachings of Sato and Inaba et al. fail to disclose or suggest a scanner which includes an operating panel configured to input and display a processing condition including file format information, and a controller that acquires the processing condition from the operating panel, generates transmission data according to the file format information input from the operation panel, and forwards the transmission data to a designated terminal according to the acquired processing condition, as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the invention recited in Applicants' claim 1 is not obvious in view of Sato and Inaba et al., and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and allow claim 1.

Applicants submit that claims 3-8 are also in condition for allowance, in view of their dependency from claim 1.

As another matter, Applicants' dependent claim 3 recites that the operation panel displays an icon indicating a selected file format. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Sato discloses that an icon indicating a selected file format is displayed on an LCD 2013 of the operation unit 2012. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the portion of Sato cited by the Examiner as allegedly teaching this feature merely discloses that an operation screen and soft keys are displayed on the LCD 2013, and is silent as to an icon indicating a selected file format. See, col. 6, lines 16-30 of Sato.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the combined teachings of Sato and Inaba et al. fails to teach an operation panel which displays an icon indicating a selected file format, as recited in Applicants' claim 3, and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

As another matter, Applicants' dependent claim 4 recites that the processing condition includes a file name for the transmission data, and the controller allows an operator to input the file name from the operating panel. In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Sato's CPU 2001 allows an operator to select a file name for transmission data from the operation panel. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the portions of Sato cited by the Examiner as allegedly teaching this feature merely discloses that the image compression unit 2040 performs compression and decompression processes according to various formats, and the operation unit 2012 includes soft and hard keys. See col. 5, lines 20-30 and col. 6, lines 16-27 of Sato. Applicants submit that these portions are silent as to inputting a file name from the operation unit 2012.

For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the combined teachings of Sato and Inaba et al. fail to teach a scanner as set forth in claim 1, in which the processing condition includes a file name for the transmission data, and the controller allows an operator to input the file name from the operating panel., as recited in Applicants' claim 4, and thus, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 9, as currently amended, recites a scanner which includes a reading unit that reads an original document by scanning and generating corresponding image data, a transmission data composing unit that processes the image data into transmission data, and an operating panel. The operating panel is configured to allow an operator to select image processing conditions of the image data. The image processing conditions include at least one of a file name and a file format.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sato fails to disclose that the operation unit 2012 allows an operator to select either a file name or a file format for image data, as discussed above. Applicants also submit that Inaba et al. fails to disclose that the operation panel provided on the reader unit 1 allows an operator to select either a file name or a file format for image data.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submit that the combined teachings of Sato and Inaba et al. fail to disclose or suggest a scanner which includes an operating panel which is configured to allow an operator to select image processing conditions of image data which include at least one of a file name and a file format, as recited in Applicants' amended claim 9.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the invention recited in Applicants' claim 9 is not obvious in view of Sato and Inaba et al., and thus, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and allow claim 9.

Applicants submit that claims 10-15 are also in condition for allowance, in view of their dependency from claim 9.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION


Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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